

New Shoreham Deer Task
Tuesday, May 15, 2012, 5:00 p.m.
Town Hall, Old Town Road

Present: Mary Sue Record, Becky Ballard, Ruth Perfido, Paul Deane, Chris Blane, George Mellor.
Not Present: Sara McGinnes.

The meeting was called to order at 5:05 p.m.

There was no public input. (Mr. Howell Conant arrived at 7 p.m. due to an error in the BIT.)

From the DEM, the 2011-12 reported number of deer taken by hunters was 171; unknown mortalities were 14 and road mortalities were 5. The former was reported via cards sent to DEM by the hunters. Discussion followed concerning the possibility of returning to the old system of setting up a check station to improve reporting accuracy plus other advantages; a scenario will be crafted by Blane and Deane.

Perfido discussed her conversation with Nancy Dodge concerning town cooperation with BIC on hunting on properties, 20/20 and 86/4.

Ballard stated that Jennifer Taubman, on behalf of BIED, was enthusiastic about co-sponsoring a DTF fund raising campaign taking advantage of BIED's 501(3c) status.

Motion was made, seconded and passed 6-0 to proceed with the process.

Ayes 6(Record, Ballard, Perfido, Deane, Blane, and Mellor) Nays 0 Absent 1 (McGinnes)

A document citing DTF fund requirements will be needed.

There followed discussion of deer carcass disposition. Blane stated that people on the mainland will accept whole (or nearly so) deer if trucked on the ferry; possibly, visiting hunters might return to the mainland with deer aboard their trucks. Record will write a summary of methods of distribution. Record noted that her research indicated that various "food for the hungry" organizations did not offer much help in disposing of deer.

A possible DTF initiative would promote baiting – now illegal – as a way of increasing the deer take and as a way of changing the culture from sporting hunting to hunting to reduce Lyme disease. Blane argued against the baiting process.

A motion was made and seconded to proceed with the initiative.

Ayes 5 (Record, Ballard, Perfido, Deane and Mellor) Nays 1(Blane) Absent 1 (McGinnes)

A motion was made and seconded to amend the "DTF Strategy for 2012" to include "propose solutions" in the third major topic.

Ayes 5 (Record, Ballard, Perfido, Deane and Mellor) Nays 1(Blane) Absent 1 (McGinnes)

Record initiated discussion on including ecological damage in the "Strategy" document; discussion to be continued.

Mellor reported on the Yale, NIH funded project. Apparently there is no money for another aerial survey. The Yale team will be here six times this summer to drag various properties to assay the tick population. Mellor and Record will meet with Marie Diuk-Wasser to learn more about the future of the project. Meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.